

TESTIMONY OF  
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CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON AGING  
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
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Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports SB 937 An Act Concerning Care for Elderly Persons in a Home Setting Rather than a Nursing Home Facility and HB 6461 An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly.

CBIA opposes SB 885 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Evaluate the Utility of Creating a Public Retirement Plan.

CBIA supports the underlying premise of SB 937 in our report "Turning the Tide" [http://gov.cbiam.com/issues\\_policies/article/turning-the-tide-on-connecticuts-fiscal-policies](http://gov.cbiam.com/issues_policies/article/turning-the-tide-on-connecticuts-fiscal-policies) . We note that study by UCONN has confirmed that elderly clients prefer home care whenever possible. The Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century exhaustively studied the issue of long term care (see [http://ctregionalinstitute.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/findingsppt\\_full.pdf](http://ctregionalinstitute.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/findingsppt_full.pdf) ). It found that most seniors prefer home care but face daunting obstacles in getting those services in lieu of nursing home placement. We note that other studies done by AARP, and Mercer also show the need and desirability for the state to proceed towards its own stated goal of 75% home care vs. 25% nursing home care with all deliberate speed. We feel that this goal has not received comprehensive and accelerated attention by the state. We have heard from others that implementation is really fast yet our own observation says it's rather slow and needs a real solid goal to be stated by the general assembly for the state to obtain. That is why we welcome and support this bill. We are sure you will hear debate on cost savings that may result from this bill, but I feel certain that implementation will show some savings versus continuing to do things as we have always done them.

CBIA believes that HB 6461 provides another useful alternative to provide our elderly clients choice and hopefully the state cost savings at the same time.

On SB 885 the state needs to stick to its core mission and core functions especially in tough fiscal times. Bill 885 could lead the state down the path of a costly experiment. Substantial retirement options exist under federal programs and private programs whether company provided or privately purchased. Federal tax advantages apply to individuals who take advantage of these. We think it an unnecessary diversion of time, money and resources for the state to venture in this direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.